(c) The total number of officers and employees working at present in the Organisation is about 29,000, which includes about 5500 scientists/engineers.

(d) The yearly target of recruitment of scientists/engineers has fulfilled in part.

(e) The details are as under:

Year	Posts vacant	Posts filled
1999	460	321
2000	514	357

Increase in Road Accidents

†*588. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has a continuous increase in road accidents in the country;

(b) if so, the causes of such accidents togetherwith the details of the steps being contemplated by Government to contain these accidents; and

(c) if no steps have been taken so far, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) No, Sir.

(b) There are several factors *e.g.* lack of traffic discipline on the part of drivers and road users, phenomenal increase in the number of motor vehicles with no corresponding increase in road capacity,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

mixed traffic condition, overspeeding, overloading, drunken driving, mechanical defects in vehicles, etc. responsible for road accidents.

Remedial steps taken/contemplated by the Government involve engineering and managerial efforts like strengthening and widening of roads, road signales, improvement of road geometries, training, awareness, enforcement, etc.

(c) Does not arise.

Unplanned purchase during Kargil war

*589. SHRI DIPANKER MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "MoD shopping spree during Kargil shows bad planning: CAG" which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 30th March, 2001; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A draft review titled "Special Audit on purchase of stores for Operation-Vijay (Kargil)", for inclusion in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, for the year ended 31.3.2000, has been received from the Director General of Audit, Defence Services in December, 2000. Observations in this Report relate mainly to some procurements made during Operation-Vijay, delayed delivery of equipment and ammunitions, single vendor procurements and faulty supplies. These observations are being examined in consultation with Army Headquarters.